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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/184,878	11/03/1998	MASUO OHNISHI	981331	4776

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EXAMINER

FEILD, LYNN DIANA

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2835

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
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**BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS  
AND INTERFERENCES**

Paper No. 21

Application Number: 09/184,878  
Filing Date: November 3, 1998  
Appellant(s): Ohnishi et al.

William L. Brooks  
For Appellant

**EXAMINER'S ANSWER**

**MAILED**  
DEC 04 2001  
**GROUP 2800**

This is in response to appellant's brief on appeal filed September 19, 2001.

**(1) *Real Party in Interest***

A statement identifying the real party in interest is contained in the brief.

**(2) *Related Appeals and Interferences***

Art Unit: 2835

The brief does not contain a statement identifying the related appeals and interferences which will directly affect or be directly affected by or have a bearing on the decision in the pending appeal is contained in the brief. Therefore, it is presumed that there are none. The Board, however, may exercise its discretion to require an explicit statement as to the existence of any related appeals and interferences.

**(3) *Status of Claims***

The statement of the status of the claims contained in the brief is correct.

**(4) *Status of Amendments After Final***

The appellant's statement of the status of amendments after final rejection contained in the brief is correct.

**(5) *Summary of Invention***

The summary of invention contained in the brief is correct.

**(6) *Issues***

The appellant's statement of the issues in the brief is correct.

**(7) *Grouping of Claims***

Appellant's brief includes a statement that claims rejected under 35 USC 102(b) and claims rejected under 35 USC 103(a) do not stand or fall together and provides reasons as set forth in 37 CFR 1.192(c)(7) and (c)(8).

Art Unit: 2835

**(8) Claims Appealed**

The copy of the appealed claims contained in the Appendix to the brief is correct.

**(9) Prior Art of Record**

The following is a listing of the prior art of record relied upon in the rejection of claims under appeal.

5,463,527	Hager et al.	10-1995
5,673,171	Varghese et al.	09-1997
6,021,041	Genix et al.	02-2000

**(10) Grounds of Rejection**

The following ground(s) of rejection are applicable to the appealed claims:

Claims 5, 6, 7/5, 7/6, 8/5, 8/6, 9/5, 9/6, 15/5, 15/6, 20, 21, 30/5, 30/6 and 31/21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b). This rejection is set forth in prior Office action, Paper No. 14.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 14/1, 14/4, 14/5, 14/6, 15/1, 15/4, 16/1, 16/4, 16/5, 16/6, 17/1, 17/4, 17/5, 17/6, 18, 19 and 24-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a). This rejection is set forth in prior Office action, Paper No. 14.

**(11) Response to Argument**

Issue 1 of Appellant's arguments states "*although Hager et al. teaches various types of materials with differing hardnesses (or vibration/shock absorbing characteristics), it should be noted that Hager et al. does not teach using such various types of materials simultaneously for*

Art Unit: 2835

*the shock/vibration members.*" The examiner respectfully disagrees. Shock absorber pads 64 are clearly used simultaneously with shock mounts 68 (see, for example, Fig. 4).

Appellant then states that "Hager et al. is silent regarding the simultaneous use of mutually different materials...". The examiner would like to point out with respect to this remark that in the previous paragraph appellant stated "Hager et al. teaches various types of materials with differing hardnesses". These two comments are contradictory. Furthermore as most clearly disclosed in claims 8 and 9 of Hager et al. two different elements with differing hardnesses are clearly taught. Note claim 8 refers to four elastomeric mounts and claim 9 refers to shock absorber pads of a lower durometer hardness than the mounts. It is the examiner's position that the different hardnesses of the mounts and pads provide different shock absorbing characteristics and clearly meet the claim limitations of mutually different materials.

Issue 2 of Appellant's arguments state that the PC board 22 of Genix et al. is not electrically insulative. It is the examiner's position that PC boards are made of non-conducting material on which chips and other components are placed and must therefore be inherently insulative. All PCB's are inherently insulative so that any components or traces mounted thereon do not short out. Electrical components would not operate if mounted on a surface without insulation. The components would short circuit. Appellant then states that the wiring circuits contained on the PCB 22 of Genix et al. would contain electrical conductivity from one side to the other. This feature does not prevent the board from being insulative and

Art Unit: 2835

in fact further emphasizes the insulative features of a PCB due to the fact that the circuits do not short out. With respect to appellant's remarks stating that the present invention prevents moisture absorbed by vibration..from causing short circuits on the HDD 34 and that the sheet member is entirely insulative, it is noted that these features are not claimed.

For the above reasons, it is believed that the rejections should be sustained.

Respectfully submitted,



LDF  
November 29, 2001

**LYNN D. FEILD  
PRIMARY EXAMINER**

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